

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 15, 1883.

Christmas comes but once a year, and the same may be said of the President's message. This year's message from President Arthur is a straightforward and statesmanlike affair, the eagle does not scream too loudly in national congratulation over our peaceful relations with Foreign Powers, cheaper rates for city postage to correspond with the reductions already made, are favored and also the protection of the forests while the existing Mormon legislation is unhesitatingly pronounced a failure. The paragraph on the Islands of the Pacific runs as follows:—

"At the recent Coronation of his Majesty King Kalakaua this Government was represented both diplomatically and by the formal visit of a vessel of war. The question of terminating or modifying the existing Reciprocity Treaty with Hawaii is now before Congress. I am convinced that the charges of abuse and fraud under that treaty have been exaggerated. I renew the suggestion of last year's message that the treaty be modified wherever its provisions have proven onerous to legitimate trade between the two countries. I am not disposed to favor the entire cessation of treaty relations, which have fostered good will between the countries and contributed toward the equality of Hawaii in the family of nations."

It is thought the happiest of omens for the continuation of the treaty that Senator Miller has been nominated Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, and in the face of this favorable outlook, many people here with surprise the rumor that the Island Government is about to make itself conspicuous by arrangements for a big Chinese immigration, granting a contract to one special line of steamers with the view of luring laborers at the rate of seven or eight hundred a month. Rumor also has it that that special line is not to be the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. It is not known whether this company wanted the contract or privilege, or not, but if they did, and failed to get it, it looks ominous for the treaty, in view of the company throwing their powerful Washington lobby against the treaty.

The election of Carlisle, a democrat, as speaker of the House seems to be satisfactory to equally to democrats and republicans. The former talk merrily of the repeal of navigation laws, free material for ship builders, untaxed raw material, reconstruction of the tariff, preaching of the doctrine of taxation for revenue only, and no more revenue to be collected than is required, and state their belief that reviving ocean carrying trade and extending our commerce with foreign nations will be the leading issue in the approaching Presidential campaign, and that an honest and tangible issue is the best chance the party has of electing a President. The Republicans all content themselves with saying, "We are watching to see you make fools of yourselves. You are committed to free-trade, and it was the protective duties that brought our country to its wonderful present state of material development. Ah, well, you will all go to pieces when the time of the real test comes." Even Democrats admit that as things stand now, neither New York, Connecticut, New Jersey nor Indiana could be carried upon a free trade programme, nor yet Louisiana, Georgia or North Carolina. South Carolina would give a democratic majority on a "tariff for revenue only" basis, and so would Kentucky, but they are the only ones to be relied upon.

Abroad, our chief interest is in O'Donnell's sentence. His trial for the murder of Carey the informer, concluded early in the month. Mr. Russell, for the defense, spoke to the jury four hours, asserting that the evidence proved that O'Donnell did not premeditate the shooting of Carey but acted in self-defense. Sir Henry James, for the prosecution, closed the case. He went over the evidence and asserted that the theory of self-defense was untenable. "The prisoner," he said, "shot Carey deliberately, because he believed it to be a praiseworthy act, and wished to enjoy all the notoriety that would attach to it." Judge Denman charged the jury which retired at 7 o'clock in the evening and at 9 came into court with a verdict of "Guilty." Judge Denman thereupon sentenced O'Donnell to death. The prisoner's shout of "Three cheers for old Ireland, to hell with the British," etc., and his struggling and cursing when he was removed by the police were not exactly acts to recommend him to mercy, but now that it is known that his sentence is fixed for the 17th, his counsel and friends in London and his adherents in America are making every effort to save his life or at least to procure a respite from the Home Secretary. Russell, his chief counsel, has written a letter to Gladstone making a point on the misapprehension by the jury of Judge Denman's charge. A search is being made for the jurors but they cannot be found, and it is said their addresses are withheld. The point will be raised that the jury should have been composed of six natives and six British subjects, because of O'Donnell's American citizenship. Residents of London are to wait on Lowell, the American Minister, to urge his influence. O'Donnell himself seems prepared for the worst. The last dispatch says the hangman has arrived to make preparations for the execution, and Lowell says he is not free to discuss the steps taken to obtain a respite.

Whether the remarkable red glow in the sky that we have all been speculating about for the last two weeks has anything to do with party augury or not, the fact remains that there have been sunsets and sunrises wonderful enough to induce scientists to consider their cause. Furthermore, the phenomenon has been witnessed across the whole North American continent from California to Maine, but we claim the honor of having started it as it were, that is in America. In England it was seen as early as the 8th of last month. Although the prevailing color was red yet other peculiar effects were seen which suggested said the wise, a resemblance to the green sun seen in India and South America in September. The color of the Indian sky was explained as caused by vapors of Java volcanoes, so there were not wanting theories of Alaska volcano ashes to account for the Pacific coast display. The most satisfactory guess is that the cause is the presence of meteoric dust in the atmosphere. The earth has within the last three weeks crossed the tracks of two meteor streams, and the number of brilliant meteors have attracted attention. The meteors have left long trails in their flight, and late investigations show that the meteor trails are incandescent dust or vapor like that into which meteors themselves are converted unless they strike the earth before being

completely consumed. The earth passes through a region rich in cosmic particles, which, falling under its attraction have plunged into the atmosphere in great numbers.

The appeal to England from Egypt will probably draw another detachment of the flower of the British youth to die of war or fever in combating El Uahdi the False Prophet. England has involved herself too deeply with Egyptian affairs to afford to withdraw just as the whole government is falling into her hands, and there will be the old story of Indian mismanagement, waste of life and attacks on all the neighboring countries for glory as the history of her colonies is almost sure to run. Perhaps she will even interfere with the scheme France is said to cherish of one day converting the Mediterranean into "a French Lake" by means of her African possessions which exasperates Spain so deeply, and accounts for the visit of the Crown Prince of Germany to Madrid just at this moment. England meantime amuses herself by creating. Tennyson the poet a Baron-Baron Tennyson Drincourt of Aldworth. A musical title, but everybody is disappointed that Tennyson accepts it; one paper went so far as to find it as absurd to make the poet a baron as it would be to make the Duke of Devonshire a peer and his descendants hereditary peers. Mario the great singer who could "charm with a tenor note the souls in purgatory," is dead, and Queen Victoria sends a wreath to Rome to be placed on his coffin, sending also Cassino, her master of music.

San Francisco pleases herself with the contemplation of a World's Fair in 1887. The Palace Hotel was the scene of a meeting at which Governor Stoneman presided, where it was resolved to hold the fair if the funds were forthcoming, to organize a Committee to take the matter in hand, and to report in six months what had been done. The Park and Ocean Railroad is completed, that steam car extension of the Market street cable road built by the Central Pacific Railroad Company to carry passengers out to the beach. There was trouble with the Supervisors about carrying the road across the end of the Park but the company wisely built the road and then awaited the Supervisors' decision as to whether it might be done or not. It gives the public access to one of the longest and finest beaches that can be imagined, where, as many of the bequests of a huge estate, only too well known to fame as the Lick Trust, are about to be executed and include \$150,000 for the opening of free baths for the city. The prophetic eye sees this magnificent sweep of sand and surf utilized for the site and recreation of some really fine bath houses and their occupants.

General Hancock was met by endless delegations, committees, and partisan and non-partisan bodies, literally till he could rest. He is very ill, it is said, whether to quench his political aspirations early, or because it is true.

COMRADE.

AMERICAN TRADE WITH THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

Report of Consul Canisius, of Apia, Samoa Islands.

During the quarter just ended, June 30, 1883 only two American vessels of 312 tons arrived at Apia, with cargoes consisting principally of provisions and lumber, of the value of \$24,230. During the previous quarter three American vessels arrived bringing cargoes of substantially the same kind, their values amounting to \$41,735.50. This makes a total for the two quarters of \$65,965.50. This half-year's imports into Apia compared with those of the same period last year shows an increase of \$18,099.50, which, though it may not be called a large increase of trade, yet goes to prove what I have stated in a former report, that Samoa becomes from year to year of greater importance to the United States. There are already now, as before reported, two large American firms established at Apia, selling their goods not only at retail, but doing quite a large wholesale business. Besides these, the smaller houses also help to increase the imports, and the more Americans establish themselves at Apia the more likely it is that the export trade from the States to this group of islands will increase. I anticipate that my report at the end of this year will show that the imports during the calendar year are greater than in any preceding year. The two larger firms are preparing themselves more and more to render a very considerable opposition to the two large German houses, which until recently almost entirely monopolized the trade of this group of islands, as well as of other South Sea Island groups. The two American establishments have recently purchased here several small vessels, which will be employed in the inter-island trade, and if the beginning result in success we may reasonably conclude that the American commerce will increase at a very satisfactory rate.

For provisions, lumber, and a great many other things in demand in the South Pacific, there is no cheaper or more convenient market than San Francisco. American capital and enterprise is all that is needed to make most of the South Sea Islands, in a commercial respect, tributary to the great city at the Golden Gate. To bring this result about, our Government could render the greatest assistance by granting the South Pacific Mail Steamship Company, whose vessels pass in sight of the islands, a reasonable subsidy to deliver the mail-bags destined for this group at Apia. This port is the great depot where goods are delivered and subsequently transhipped in small vessels to the other islands. The mail facilities between Samoa and the States are so poor that it sometimes requires months before a letter can reach San Francisco. A regular steam intercourse between here and that city would obviate this great drawback to American commerce in the South Seas. I am convinced that it would pay well to our country generally if the expansion of American business in the vast number of South Sea Islands were thus supported.

I have learned from a source which I deem reliable that the Imperial German Government would willingly grant a subsidy of 10,000 marks to Pacific Mail Steamship Company to deliver the mails at Apia, if our Government would also grant a reasonable subsidy for that purpose.

Our commerce would probably soon predominate in the Samoa and Tonga Islands if our manufacturers of cotton dry goods knew how to please the taste of the semi-civilized or barbarous races which inhabit all the islands of the Pacific. The traders in the so-called "Lino" islands—the Ellice, Gilbert, and Kingsmill groups—and even in the wild Solomon and New Hebrides groups more to the west, would draw much of their merchandise from San Francisco, but English manufacturers produce calico much cheaper and more to the taste of the South Sea Islanders.

Even American merchants here are obliged to purchase their prints principally in Sydney, otherwise they cannot successfully compete with the Germans and English. This is a great obstacle in the way of a rapid increase in our com-

merce, which for geographical reasons should be predominant here. One finds that a large part of the provisions used here are brought from Australia, so that our merchants do not entirely control the market of the Islands in that line, as one would expect. The two German firms here, the "Deutsche Handels- und Plantagen-Gesellschaft der Südsee Inseln zu Hamburg"—formerly J. C. Godeffroy & Sons—and H. M. Ruge & Co., occasionally dispatch a vessel to San Francisco, but only when they run short of provisions and are obliged to renew their stock as quickly as possible. So far one article alone remains in the hands of Americans entirely, and that is lumber. Our piles, of which the red is considered the best, are very well able to withstand the climate and the ravages of insects.

American merchants in Samoa state that they are forced to abandon the home dry goods market because they are unable to find what is most needed and salable here. The high freight tariff on our railroads from the East is another bar to the extension of our export trade to the South Seas. Merchandise can be shipped from London or Liverpool to Sydney at a much less cost than from Boston or New York to San Francisco. The opening of the two new railroads from the East will doubtless cause a reduction in the freight, and as cause and effect are inseparable, business houses in Samoa may in future be able to secure a large quantity of goods in San Francisco at as low a rate as in Sydney. As far as dry goods are concerned I would respectfully suggest to our home manufacturers of cotton goods to study the taste of semi-civilized races a little and examine samples of English patterns. The gaudier the colors the more they are in demand here.

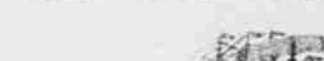
Although I find that very substantial obstacles in the way of expansion of American trade in these regions have to be overcome, still I have come to the conclusion that it will steadily increase. A German firm here (Ruge & Co.) have lately dispatched a vessel to San Francisco for a cargo of provisions, etc. If their example is followed by the other German firms, we shall, with these and our own merchants here, soon have a brisk trade with Apia.

NOTICE.

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE

Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, held at the 4th instant, it was voted to increase the capital stock of the Company from Four Hundred Thousand Dollars; and also that Mr. W. H. McLENNAN be elected Treasurer for the unexpired term, viz. FOSTER, resigned.

Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company's



TIME TABLE.

RATES.	Commander
Will run regularly for Kona and Kailua.	
LEAVES HONOLULU AT 4 P. M. ON	
Tuesday, December 11, Friday, December 14	
ARRIVES AT HONOLULU AT 5 P. M.	
Tuesday, December 16, Friday, December 19	

Steamer Iwalani, CAMERON, Commander.

Leaves Honolulu Every Monday at 5 P. M.

For Kailua, Kailua, Kailua, and Kailua. Returning, leaves Honolulu every Saturday morning.

Steamer James Makee, FREEMAN, Commander.

Leaves Honolulu Every Thursday at 5 P. M.

For Kailua and Kailua. Returning, leaves Kailua every Tuesday at 5 P. M. and Kailua at Kailua, every Tuesday.

Steamer C. R. Bishop, DAVIS, Commander.

Leaves Honolulu Every Tuesday at 5 P. M.

For Kailua, Kailua, Kailua, and Kailua. Returning, leaves Kailua every Sunday morning.

KING & BRO.'S

PICTURE STORE

Oil Paintings,

Engravings,

Ebony Ware,

Mirrors,

Artists' Materials,

Etc., Etc., Etc.

No. 108 King Street,

Will Open Saturday,

December 29th, 1883.

GUANO.

Fanning's Island Guano

Warranted 72.70 Phosphate.

—FOR SALE BY—

A. F. COOKE.

STREET LETTER BOXES

HAVE BEEN PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED

through the city at the following places:

On Telegraph pole, near the King Street Station, L. E. O. on Telegraph pole, at the entrance to the Reformatory School (Palms).

At the east corner of 11th and School streets.

At the north corner of Nimitz and School streets.

At the south corner of Nimitz and School streets.

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